

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, April 18, 2016, to review the Recreation Sections of the Proposed FY 2017 Budget.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Rodney M. Roberts arrived at 7:48 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Jeffrey Williams, City Treasurer; Julie McHale, Director of Recreation; Joe McNeal and Greg Varda, Assistant Directors of Recreation; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Diane Oberg, Greenbelt News Review.

Mayor Jordan reviewed the following goals for Recreation for FY 2017:

- 1. Provide quality recreation and learning activities throughout Greenbelt;*
- 2. Actively engage and build relationships throughout Greenbelt;*
- 3. Manage the operations of parks and recreation facilities;*
- 4. Develop team capacity and organizational culture; and*
- 5. Strengthen organizational systems and structures.*

Ms. McHale highlighted some of the new items since the writing of the proposed budget. One of these was the continued recognition of the staff: Anne Oudemans received her National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Certified Recreation and Parks status; Di Quynn-Reno received the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Member of the Year and the Quarterly Member award; Stephen Parks received a MRPA Presidential Award and two Recreation and Leisure Services branch awards; and Alison Longworth received her MRPA Leadership Institute Certification.

Other items highlighted by Ms. McHale in her introduction was the renewed progress of past partnerships and development of new ones; numerous updates/renovations to the various facilities which have been very well received by the public; and the constant demand to stay on top of the new requirements for certifications and licensing of our camps and various programs.

Council then reviewed the Recreation budget page by page.

Ms. Davis asked about the Walk with Ease program. Mr. Varda said Karen Haseley, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor, and Richard Fink, Superintendent of Parks and Grounds, had worked together to secure a grant for this program from the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Arthritis Foundation. He said the program was very popular and is held in various areas of the City.

Mayor Jordan asked about a grand opening for the Schrom Hills FitZone. Ms. McHale and Mr. Varda said they hope to have this scheduled during the Greenbelt Day weekend.

Ms. McHale reported that one of the new partnerships formed this year was with the Greenbelt Library. She said the Library provides services to camp participants and plans to offer a student reading program this summer and a math program later this year.

Mr. Varda discussed the Bike Rodeo program which is a partnership with Bike Maryland, Proteus Bikes and the Police Department. He also mentioned the therapeutic Tandem Bike program for visually impaired individuals. Mr. Varda said if the program is successful, it may be expanded to provide for therapeutic kayaking and hiking.

Ms. Davis asked about the Contra Dance program. Mr. Varda said the City partners with the Folklore Society of Greater Washington to offer this very successful program and the profits are split 50/50. He said 483 participants have attended the six dances held thus far.

Mr. McNeal mentioned the roof replacement and installation of the new CYBEX training equipment at the GAFC. He said very good feedback continues to be received from users of the facility.

Ms. Pope asked about the use of play equipment allowed in the pool. Mr. McNeal said GAFC determines when play equipment is allowed based on the number of patrons using the pool.

Mr. McNeal provided information on a WIBIT inflatable water sports playground that could be used in the pools on a set (and advertised) schedule. He noted the cost of the playground is \$9,500.

Mr. Putens expressed concern with the rusted condition of the lifeguard chair bases along with needed repairs to the staff locker rooms. He requested both items be included on the Budget Wish List.

Mr. Putens said he had heard residents express concerns that camp programs are not affordable to their families since they don't get a resident cost break or a discount for multiple children. Ms. McHale and Mr. Varda explained that camp rates were less for resident participants and financial assistance/scholarship programs are available to assist with camp registration costs. Mr. Putens suggested the fee structure be reviewed.

Ms. Mach asked if information was available on Greenbelt resident renters versus non-resident renters for space at the Community Center. Mr. McNeal said no, noting that some renters are groups (such as volleyball group) where everyone participating just pays a fee to cover the rental costs. He said sometimes the participants are a mix of residents and non-residents.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. McNeal said security at the Youth Center is being evaluated and it may be determined that security cameras are needed. Mr. McLaughlin said \$25,000 is budgeted in the Special Projects Fund for security cameras at the Youth Center and Police Station.

Ms. McHale reported the computer lab laptops at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center are now six years old and the technology is outdated. She said staff is exploring partnerships to replace the laptops.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. McNeal said the 25th anniversary celebration of the GAFC will be held in September of this year.

Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling mentioned the bas-relief panels on the Community Center were in need of cleaning.

Mr. McNeal provided information on a Splash Pad to replace the existing baby pool at the outdoor pool. He estimated the entire cost of the Splash Pad installation to be between \$200,000 and \$300,000 – dependent on the condition of the infrastructure. Mr. McNeal said an evaluation of the existing infrastructure can be done for approximately \$5,000 and, after the evaluation is complete, a better idea of the project cost can be determined.

Council requested that the evaluation of the infrastructure for the Splash Pad and the WIBIT playground be added to the Budget Wish List.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked about partnerships for the purchase of new laptops.

Mayor Jordan requested Council be provided with a report on contributions (money, in-kind services, gifts, etc.) with a value of over \$100 received by the City.

The meeting ended at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*